

## Supplementary file 2: RAMESES publication standards checklist

1	Title identified as realist review	Yes
2	Abstracts should ideally contain brief details of the study's background, review question or objectives; search strategy; methods of selection, appraisal, analysis and synthesis of sources; main results; and implications for practice.	Yes
3	Explain why the review is needed and what it is likely to contribute to existing understanding of the topic area.	yes
4	State the objective(s) of the review and/or the review question(s). Define and provide a rationale for the focus of the review.	yes
5	Any changes made to the review that was initially planned should be briefly described and justified.	Yes
6	Explain why realist synthesis was considered the most appropriate method to use.	Yes
7	Describe and justify the initial process of exploratory scoping of the literature.	Yes
8	state and provide a rationale for how the iterative searching was done. Provide details on all the sources accessed for information in the synthesis. For example, where electronic databases have been searched, details should include, for example, the name of the database, search terms, dates of coverage and date last searched. If individuals familiar with the relevant literature and/or topic area were contacted, indicate how they were identified and selected.	Yes
9	Explain how judgements were made about including and excluding data from documents, and justify these.	Yes
10	Describe and explain which data or information were extracted from the included documents and justify this selection.	Yes
11	Describe the analysis and synthesis processes in detail. This section should include information on the constructs analyzed and describe the analytic process.	Yes

12	Provide details on the number of documents assessed for eligibility and included in the review with reasons for exclusion at each stage, as well as an indication of their source of origin (for example, from searching databases, reference lists and so on).	Yes
13	Provide information on the characteristics of the documents included in the synthesis.	Yes
14	Present the key findings with a specific focus on theory building and testing.	Yes, although theory testing was limited due to limited evidence, this is discussed in the paper
15	Summarize the main findings, taking into account the synthesis' objective(s), research question(s), focus and intended audience(s).	Yes
16	Discuss both the strengths of the review and its limitations. These should include (but need not be restricted to) (a) consideration of all the steps in the synthesis process and (b) comment on the overall strength of evidence supporting the explanatory insights that emerged. The limitations identified may point to areas where further work is needed.	Yes
17	Where applicable, compare and contrast the synthesis' findings with the existing literature (for example, other reviews) on the same topic.	Yes
18	List the main implications of the findings and place these in the context of other relevant literature. If appropriate, offer recommendations for policy and practice.	Yes
19	Provide details of funding source (if any) for the synthesis, the role played by the funder (if any) and any conflicts of interests of the reviewers.	Yes